

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated April 17, 2006. The Examiner is thanked for the careful consideration given the present patent application and for the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, applicants have amended the specification and cancelled, without prejudice, claims 11 and 14; amended claims 1, 13, 15, 18, and 26; and added claim 29 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objected to the disclosure concerning the operation of the valve 70 at paragraphs 43 and 44. In response, the applicants have amended paragraph 43. The amendments to paragraph 43 merely recite the function of the valve 70 depicted in FIG. 3. The poppet 117 can move away from its seated position in the passageway 89 without there being a current applied to the coil 82, as described in amended paragraph 43.


Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21-24, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,679,765 to Kramer et al. Claims 3, 4, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kramer et al. Claim 17 stands rejected under Section 103 as being unpatentable over Kramer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,100,103 to Bullard. Claim 28 is allowed. The Office Action objected to claims 11, 14, 15, 18, 25, and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing in any way to the substantive rejections made in the Office Action and merely to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicated is allowable, applicants have cancelled, without prejudice, claims 11 and 14 and amended claims 1, 13, 15, 18, and 26. In particular, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the substance of claim 11 therein. As such, amended claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-10 and 12 depend from claim 1 and, thus, contain the same patentable features thereof.

Claim 13 was amended to incorporate the substance of claim 14 therein. As such, amended claim 13 is allowable. Claims 15, 18, and 26 were amended to change their dependency from cancelled claim 14 to claim 13. As such, claims 15-27 depend from claim 13 and, thus, contain the same patentable features thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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